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the importance of the epidemics and the active measures being taken by the health departments, with especial reference to the publicity being given regarding the presence of the disease and the number of cases occurring. However, in neither case did this prove a material embarrassment to the health authorities, who received the earnest support of both the practicing physicians and the citizens in general.

The impression that publicity regarding such matters injures municipal interests is based upon a fallacy. The existence of an epidemic can not be concealed very long and the absence of frankness in regard to the situation under these conditions produces a fear and suspicion that it takes some time to overcome.

There is nothing that inspires so much confidence in the ability of a community to cope with a sanitary problem as frankness and honesty at all times in stating existing conditions. It shows that the community has the situation in hand and that it has sufficient confidence not to be afraid to inform others as to what is going on. The ethics of concealment of epidemic conditions is of course indefensible.

#### OHIO.

The Ohio State Board of Health reports that epidemic poliomyelitis is prevalent in certain sections of the State.

#### CHICAGO, ILL.

During the first 8 months of the present year 61 cases of poliomyelitis were reported in Chicago. During the month of August the number of cases notified showed a marked increase over that of preceding months. During the first 8 months of 1911 only 2 cases were reported in the city.

Poliomyelitis has been made a quarantinable disease in Chicago.

#### HALLAND COUNTY, SWEDEN.

Poliomyelitis is reported to be epidemic in Halland County, Sweden. It was prevalent in Sweden last year also, and between May 1 and October 15, 1911, there was a total of 2,390 cases reported, of which 339 occurred in towns.

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#### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE STUDY OF INFANTILE HYGIENE AND PATHOLOGY, PARIS, OCTOBER 7, 1912.

The next International Congress for the Study of Infantile Hygiene and Pathology will be held at Paris October 7, 1912. It is the desire of those having charge of the congress that as many pediatricists as possible of foreign countries may attend. The honorary president of the congress is the minister of public instruction of France. The following letter in regard to the congress was received from the Department of State, together with a translation of a note addressed to the department by the French Government through its ambassador at Washington, expressing the hope that as many

American physicians as possible, interested in the work of the congress, may be present:

SEPTEMBER 10, 1912.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose, with the request that your department give the matter due publicity, a translation of a note from the French Embassy, in which, at the instance of Dr. Hutinel, member of the Academy of Medicine of Paris, it urges that American physicians interested in the matter be advised of the desire of the International Association for the Study of Infantile Hygiene and Pathology that they attend the next congress of the association to be held at Paris.

Translations of the note have also been sent to the War, Navy, and Interior Departments, respectively.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

HUNTINGTON WILSON,  
*Acting Secretary of State.*

EMBASSY OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, August 29, 1912.*

MR. SECRETARY OF STATE:

I have just received telegraphic notice from my Government that the foreign physicians belonging to the International Association for the Study of Infantile Hygiene and Pathology have made the offer to their French colleagues to hold at Paris the next Congress of Pediatrics.

I have also received instructions to inform your excellency of the desire expressed by Dr. Hutinel, member of the Academy of Paris, that the physicians in foreign countries who are most eminent in the treatment of children's diseases, especially those physicians who belong to pediatric societies already constituted in the several countries, be invited to attend this international meeting, which will be held on October 7. Dr. Hutinel desires that the said physicians be temporarily excused from their lecture courses to enable them to attend the congress, which, like the International Association of Pediatrics, has the moral support of the French Government, its honorary president being the minister of public instruction of the Republic.

I venture to have recourse to your excellency's good offices to have this invitation made known as soon as possible to the American physicians concerned, whose attendance at the congress is greatly desired by my fellow countrymen.

Be pleased, Mr. Secretary, to accept the assurance of my high consideration.

E. DE PERETTI DE LA ROCCA.

His Excellency Hon. P. C. KNOX,  
*Secretary of State of the United States.*

## SMALLPOX IN THE UNITED STATES.

### PREVALENCE AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1911.

By JOHN W. TRASK, Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service

Smallpox was still prevalent throughout the United States during the year 1911. The general type of the disease was the same as that which has been common for the last 14 or 15 years. Most of the cases were mild, so mild in fact that frequently it was difficult to make a diagnosis. Many cases were undoubtedly pronounced chickenpox. Some of those attacked suffered so little inconvenience that a physician was not called in attendance, and in some cases the patients had not discontinued their regular occupations. Others had taken a cessation from work for a day or two.

This mild type of the disease is not one peculiar to this country. During recent years there has been a similarly benign form in certain